

*Story telling in youth work in the UK and Japan
: Exploring its potential for
demonstrating 'impact'
Japanese Report*

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Brief background surrounding youth work in Japan

- Few youth work/service provisions funded by (local) governments
- No qualification/degrees of youth workers
- Poor common recognition of youth work
- Government focuses on short periods targeted employability approach

Our collaborative challenge between practitioners and researchers

Developing ‘media of counter documentation’ by which youth workers can develop self-recognition of their work (*This is youth work*), and also by which people can recognize values and significance of youth work.

That is the background we encountered ‘story telling’ by IDYW

Learning from ‘Story-telling Work Shop’ by IDYW



Storytelling Workshop for our team,
facilitated by Bernard
(Sept.2015 at Leamington Spa)



Reproduced Storytelling
Workshop for our colleagues
Sept. 2015, Tokyo

Story-telling in Youth Work



Reflections on a story-telling workshop with visiting youth workers and academics from Japan

2nd and 3rd September 2015

By Bernard Davies

These notes have been prompted by a youth work story-telling workshop and follow-up discussion which IDYW was invited to arrange for a visiting group of Japanese youth work practitioners and researchers. Unfortunately other IDYW colleagues were unavailable on the dates, I ended up facilitating on my own what turned out to be a searching and thought-provoking event with participants deeply committed to the work which IDYW is trying to defend. After engaging actively throughout in – with breaks and time for translation – a five hour workshop, the group met again in the evening for its own ‘debriefing’ session. I received several pages of typed-up questions which were emailed to me overnight as prompts for a further two hour discussion the following morning.

Though language and cultural differences inevitably sometimes presented barriers to be overcome, these also helped to prompt exchanges which seemed to me less likely to occur in an all-UK group, and provided explanations and clarifications which I’ve not been asked for before. These not only seemed important in their own right for these participants. They also raised issues and questions which I believe deserve collective consideration within IDYW. Hence these notes – which have been shared first with, and some comments added by, the workshop participants.

Background and contexts

<https://story-tellinginyouthwork.com/reflections-on-a-story-telling-workshop-with-visiting-youth-workers-and-academics-from-japan>

A trial of describing our youth work stories.

- A story of a primary school age girl who has difficult family conditions and a youth worker by Fumiyuki Nakatsuka
- A story of a young male group who are ex-members of a youth centre and a youth worker who has been working there by Misako Yokoe